

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 5, and 12 are amended; as a result, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application. The Examiner's attention is directed to the original filed specification at the following locations where support for the amendments above may be found: FIG. 3; page 7 first full paragraph and see particularly 8-10; page 6 last full paragraph and see particularly lines 26-30; FIG. 2; page 5 last full paragraph and continuing to page 6 through at least line 13; and many others.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate description or enablement. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the introduction of the "Internet" into the claims in the manner originally done lacks support. However, the language the Examiner is rejecting has been removed. Therefore, this rejection is moot and no longer appropriate.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The perceived offending language has been removed from the independent claims above, therefor there can no longer be any basis at all for continuing to assert this rejection. Similar to the remarks above, this rejection is moot and no longer appropriate.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al. (U.S. 5,146,344) in view of Moore (U.S. 5,592,561). It is of course fundamental that in order to sustain an obviousness rejection that each and every step or element in the rejected claims must be taught or suggested in the proposed combination or references. Moreover, there must be some motivation by one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully assert that there is not a single teaching or suggestion of a teaching within Bennett of a server or a network. Bennett teaches a print station. One of ordinary skill in the art would not mistake the print stations internal components for being something even remotely equivalent to a network. Moreover, even assuming the Examiner continues to assert that a network is internal via bus connections, there is clearly no client-server architecture and not concept whatsoever of a server. The Examiner is correct that the Bennett reference is drawn to the mechanical arts and uses some computer technology; but this technology is not related to networking and not related in any way to client-server communication and interaction.

Fundamentally and Substantively, Applicants' claims are directed to a client-server arrangement where accounting applications are separate from print agents and reside on a server. Print jobs are submitted from clients over the network to the print agents and before the print job is forwarded to a printer for processing it is detected and metrics gathered by the accounting applications. This is achieved by the accounting applications having an interface that permits interaction and communication with the print agent.

This is now clearly and positively recited in the amended claim language above and clearly distinguishes over the Bennett reference and over the arguments the Examiner has raised.

With respect to the Moore reference, all Moore shows is a remote printer over the Internet that is even remotely related to Applicants' invention. There is not shown an accounting application and printer agent, which are both on a server and which are both separate and apart from each other and the printer. Even assuming Moore was properly combinable with Bennett, there is not teaching or suggestion of a teaching in either where the accounting application and printer agent would be removed and placed on a server in a client-server architecture.

Thus, the references standing in isolation or in combination with one another lack a teaching or a even a remote suggestion of several limitations positively recited in Applicants' amended independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at (513) 942-0224 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

F. DEVON TAYLOR ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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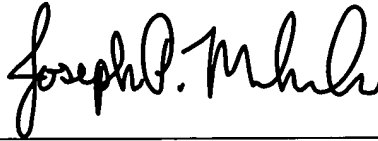
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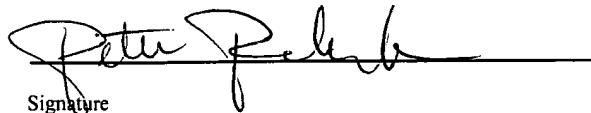
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 15 day of September 2006.

Peter Rebuffoni

Name



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